

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the use of a resource by at least one process in a data processing system having an inter-process communication mechanism provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication mechanism, comprising the steps of:

providing a licence controller;

communicating, at an allowed work unit rate for the resource, between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameter in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and, in the at least one process,

controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter,

wherein the processes comprise a plurality of identical processes, and wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller update the inter-process communication of said identical processes while sharing use of the resource between said identical processes, and

said method further comprising:

monitoring a use amount of the resource by each of said identical processes to determine if any of said identical processes are using the resource at a rate below a predetermined amount; and

if the monitoring is such that at least one of said identical processes is using the resource at a rate below the predetermined amount, updating the inter-process communication such that the at least one of said identical processes are provided with no allocation of the resource and the resource is divided among the other ones of said identical processes that are using the resource at a rate at or above the predetermined amount.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim **[[1]]** 6 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.

8. – 11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A processing system comprising:

a resource and at least one process using the resource;

a license controller;

an inter-process communication between the license controller and each process provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication,

wherein an inter-process communication contains information representative of the allowed use of the resources by its process,

wherein the license controller comprises program elements for communicating an allowed work unit rate for the resource between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameters in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and the process comprises program elements for controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter,

wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process,

wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a plurality of identical processes to enable sharing use of the resource between said identical processes, and

wherein a use amount of the resource by each of said identical processes is monitored by said licence controller to determine if any of said identical processes are using the resource at a rate below a predetermined amount; and

if said licence controller determines that at least one of said identical processes is using the resource at a rate below the predetermined amount, updating the inter-process communication such that the at least one of said identical processes are provided with no allocation of the resource and the resource is divided among the other ones of said identical processes that are using the resource at a rate at or above the predetermined amount.

13. (Currently Amended) A processing system as claimed in claim [[9]] 12 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.